



# TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) average annual unemployment rate for May 2003 was 5.2 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This was five-tenths of a percentage point below the April 2003 rate of 5.7 percent and one-tenth of a percentage point above the May 2002 rate of 5.1 percent. Month-over-month, the number of employed persons decreased by 200, or 0.1 percent, from April 2003, and the number of unemployed individuals decreased by 1,500 individuals, or 10.6 percent. The decreasing number of persons employed and the decreasing number of persons unemployed created an overall decrease of 1,700 individuals, or 0.7 percent, in the *Civilian Labor Force* from April 2003. Year-over-year the number of employed persons has decreased by 4,800, or 2.0 percent, and the number of unemployed individuals decreased by 200 individuals, or 1.6 percent, creating a net decrease in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 5,000 individuals from May 2002. The *Civilian Labor Force* figures for May 2003 for all ten counties in Southwest Idaho are shown in Treasure Valley Table 2.

Treasure Valley Table 2: May 2003 Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for Southwest Idaho Counties				
	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	177,286	8,479	4.8	168,806
Adams	1,723	196	11.4	1,526
Boise	2,597	166	6.4	2,431
Canyon	69,005	4,246	6.2	64,759
Elmore	9,887	701	7.1	9,186
Gem	6,048	448	7.4	5,600
Owyhee	3,932	84	2.1	3,849
Payette	9,488	810	8.5	8,678
Valley	4,110	327	8.0	3,782
Washington	4,194	422	10.1	3,772
Statewide	692,197	35,914	5.2	656,283

Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Ada and Canyon Counties

	May 2003*	April 2003	May 2002	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	246,300	248,000	251,300	-0.7	-2.0
Unemployment	12,700	14,200	12,900	-10.6	-1.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.2	5.7	5.1		
Total Employment	233,600	233,800	238,400	-0.1	-2.0
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	247,000	246,800	250,900	0.1	-1.6
Unemployment	12,200	14,000	12,300	-12.9	-0.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.9	5.7	4.9		
Total Employment	234,800	232,800	238,600	0.9	-1.6
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	227,300	226,000	229,100	0.6	-0.8
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>					
<b>Natural Resources &amp; Construction</b>	15,300	15,200	16,000	0.7	-4.4
<b>Manufacturing</b>	29,800	29,800	31,400	0.0	-5.1
Durable Goods	22,800	22,900	24,600	-0.4	-7.3
Wood Product Manufacturing	1,900	1,900	1,900	0.0	0.0
Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.	1,400	1,400	1,500	0.0	-6.7
Machinery Manufacturing	1,200	1,300	1,400	-7.7	-14.3
Computer & Electronic Manufacturing	14,200	14,200	16,100	0.0	-11.8
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	1,600	1,600	1,700	0.0	-5.9
Other Durable Goods	2,500	2,500	2,000	0.0	25.0
Nondurable Goods	7,000	6,900	6,800	1.4	2.9
Food Manufacturing	5,300	5,200	5,100	1.9	3.9
Printing & Related Support Activities	700	700	800	0.0	-12.5
Other Nondurable Goods	1,000	1,000	900	0.0	11.1
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES</b>					
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	182,200	181,000	181,700	0.7	0.3
Trade	43,600	43,300	44,300	0.7	-1.6
Wholesale Trade	36,900	36,600	37,300	0.8	-1.1
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	10,200	10,300	10,100	-1.0	1.0
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	6,500	6,600	6,200	-1.5	4.8
Retail Trade	2,800	2,800	3,100	0.0	-9.7
Food & Beverage Stores	26,700	26,300	27,200	1.5	-1.8
General Merchandise Stores	4,000	4,000	4,000	0.0	0.0
All Other Retail Trade	5,600	5,500	5,700	1.8	-1.8
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	17,100	16,800	17,500	1.8	-2.3
Utilities	6,700	6,700	7,000	0.0	-4.3
Transportation & Warehousing	700	700	700	0.0	0.0
Information	6,000	6,000	6,300	0.0	-4.8
Telecommunications	3,600	3,600	3,700	0.0	-2.7
<b>Financial Activities</b>	1,400	1,400	1,300	0.0	7.7
Finance & Insurance	12,100	12,100	11,900	0.0	1.7
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	9,200	9,200	8,900	0.0	3.4
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	2,900	2,900	3,000	0.0	-3.3
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	32,000	31,800	31,500	0.6	1.6
Management of Companies & Ent.	9,600	9,600	9,800	0.0	-2.0
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt.	6,800	6,800	6,800	0.0	0.0
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	15,600	15,400	14,900	1.3	4.7
Educational Services	27,800	27,600	26,900	0.7	3.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	2,000	1,900	2,300	5.3	-13.0
Hospitals	25,800	25,700	24,600	0.4	4.9
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	8,900	8,800	8,900	1.1	0.0
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	19,600	19,300	20,400	1.6	-3.9
Accommodation & Food Services	2,700	2,500	2,800	8.0	-3.6
Accommodation	16,900	16,800	17,600	0.6	-4.0
Food Services & Drinking Places	2,000	2,000	2,100	0.0	-4.8
Other Services	14,900	14,800	15,500	0.7	-3.9
<b>Total Government</b>	6,700	6,700	6,700	0.0	0.0
Federal Government	36,800	36,600	36,300	0.5	1.4
State & Local Government	5,400	5,300	5,300	1.9	1.9
State Government	31,400	31,300	31,000	0.3	1.3
State Government Education	13,800	13,900	13,300	-0.7	3.8
State Government Administration	4,300	4,300	4,400	0.0	-2.3
Local Government	9,500	9,600	8,900	-1.0	6.7
Local Government Education	17,600	17,400	17,700	1.1	-0.6
Local Government Administration	10,200	10,100	10,600	1.0	-3.8
	7,400	7,300	7,100	1.4	4.2

\* Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

In the Boise City MSA *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 1,300, or 0.6 percent, from April 2003 to May 2003, while over the year, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* lost 1,800 jobs in the Boise City MSA. Month-over-month, *Goods-Producing Industries* gained 100 jobs; job decreases were noted in *Machinery Manufacturing* (-100 jobs), while job gains were noted in *Natural Resources & Construction* (100 jobs), and *Food Manufacturing* (100 jobs). Year-over-year, *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 2,300 jobs with job losses noted in *Natural Resources, Mining, & Construction* (-700 jobs), *Fabricated Metal Products Manufacturing* (-100 jobs), *Machinery Manufacturing* (-200 jobs), *Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing* (-1,900 jobs), *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (-100 jobs), and *Printing and Related Supports Activities* (-100 jobs). Job gains occurred in *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (500 jobs), *Food Manufacturing* (200 jobs), and *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* (100).

In *Service-Providing Industries*, job gains outweighed jobs lost with an additional 1,200 jobs recorded from April 2003 to May 2003. Job gains were experienced in *General Merchandise Stores* (100 jobs), *All Other Retail Trade* (300 jobs), *Administrative & Support & Waste Management Services* (200 jobs), *Educational Services* (100 jobs), *Health Care & Social Assistance Services* (100 jobs) including *Hospitals* (100 jobs), *Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation Services* (200 jobs), *Food Services & Drinking Places* (100 jobs), *Federal Government* (100 jobs), *Local Government Education* (100 jobs), and *Local Government Administration* (100 jobs). Job losses were noted in *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (-100 jobs) and *State Government Administration* (-100 jobs). Year-over-year, *Service-Providing Industries* gained 500 jobs, with job losses noted in *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* (-300 jobs), *General Merchandise Stores* (-100 jobs), *All Other Retail Trade* (-400 jobs), *Transportation & Warehousing Services* (-300 jobs), *Information Services* (-100 jobs), *Real Estate & Rental & Leasing Services* (-100 jobs), *Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services* (-200 jobs), *Educational Services* (-300 jobs), *Arts, Entertainment & Recreation Services* (-100 jobs), *Accommodation Services* (-100 jobs), *Food Services & Drinking Places* (-600 jobs), *State Government Education* (-100 jobs), and *Local Government Education* (-400 jobs). Job gains were noted in *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (300 jobs), *Telecommunications Services* (100 jobs), *Finance & Insurance Services* (300 jobs), *Administrative & Support & Waste Management Services* (700 jobs), *Health Care & Social Assistance Services* (1,200 jobs), *Federal Government* (100 jobs), *State Government Administration* (600 jobs), and *Local Government Administration* (300 jobs). The slow

growth of jobs over the year is consistent with the downturn and slow recovery that the national economy has been experiencing since January 2001.

## **SPECIAL TOPIC:**

### **New MSA Designations**

The 2000 Census resulted in some changes to the Boise City MSA. The name of the area was officially changed to the Boise City-Nampa, ID MSA. In addition to the name change, Boise County, Gem County, and Owyhee County were added to the MSA. The MSA is determined by traffic patterns, and the majority of residents who live in Boise, Gem, and Owyhee Counties work in Ada and Canyon Counties.

In addition to the Boise City-Nampa MSA, there are five other MSA designations around the state including the Coeur d'Alene MSA (Kootenai County), Idaho Falls MSA (Jefferson and Bonneville Counties), Lewiston MSA (Nez Perce County in Idaho and Asotin County in Washington), Logan MSA (Franklin County joined the Logan Metro Area), and Pocatello (Bannock County). Officials hope that the new MSA designations throughout the state will spur increased business development and provide more opportunities for the state to compete in broader markets as well as increase eligibility for a number of federal programs.

## **AREA DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Boise City MSA**

- The Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce held its annual Small Business Awards luncheon in late May. The recipients of this year's awards included dollar-store chain Honk's Inc., architecture firm Gile-Buck & Associates, and smoke containment system manufacturer Smoke Guard Corp.
- The annual Boise River Festival took place in late June. Festivities at this year's festival included balloon launches, a carnival, parades, food courts, an arts and crafts fair, plenty of entertainment, and a finale fireworks display. No announcements regarding the financial success of the event were available at publication time.
- The new terminal at the Boise Airport opened in late June. The \$108.5 million terminal is finally open after two years of construction. Changes at the airport include an elevated roadway, shorter walkways, larger baggage carousels, an additional baggage carousel, and new shops, including The Outpost Café and CNBC News Store. In addition, the ticket lobby and access to concourses were revamped. The old terminal will be torn down and

an addition to the new terminal will be built in its place. The new addition will house security checkpoints, a food court, and additional retail stores. Most of the work on the second phase will be completed within the next two years, but the entire phase will not be completed until 2010.

- Batteries Plus recently opened a retail outlet in Boise on South Cole Road, across from Costco. The franchise is based in Wisconsin and sells common and not-so-common batteries. The 1,600-square-foot store employs four and besides selling a number of batteries, it also offers reconditioning and rebuilding services for old batteries.
- Construction started on Meridian's new fire station located at 3545 North Locust Grove Road. It is the third new fire station built in Meridian in the last four years. The new station is expected to open in December and will serve the area between Fairview Avenue, Chinden Boulevard, the Boise city limits, and Linder Road.
- The Meridian Parks Department recently announced a plan to fix a parcel of land (about a half-acre) for a new downtown park. The new park will be located at the corner of East Third Street and Idaho Avenue and will be adjacent to the Meridian Boys & Girls Club. The new park will be tentatively named Centennial Park in honor of Meridian's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of incorporation.
- Boise State University (BSU) West Campus recently completed construction on its Technology and Entrepreneurial Center (TECenter). The new small business incubator provides space and assistance for new businesses and is currently looking for tenants. The TECenter will eventually help about 30 businesses by providing space and a number of services, including market research and identification of investors. For more information on the TECenter, contact John Glerum, director of BSU's TECenter.
- Albertson College of Idaho (ACI) announced more staff cuts in early June. Fourteen employees were laid off and the college also plans to eliminate its laptop computer program in an effort to alleviate some of its multi-million-dollar budget shortfall. In addition to the layoffs, ACI President Kevin Learned announced his resignation; the board of trustees announced in early July that Robert Hoover, former president of University of Idaho, would take over as president of the small liberal arts college.
- The Academy of Professional Careers announced in early June that it had leased 9,347-square feet of space in Nampa. Officials state that an opening is planned for early fall 2003. The academy trains people for a variety of careers including medical and dental assistants, pharmacy technicians, and massage therapists. In addition the school wants to add a legal-secretary curriculum. The new Nampa facility will include massage therapy, and medical and dental assistant programs.
- The new Nampa Hampton Inn & Suites is nearing completion and is expected to open September 1, in time for the Idaho Cutting Horse Futurity, allowing spectators and participants to stay at the facility. The four-story, \$7.8 million, 101-room facility is located near the Idaho Center in North Nampa and includes 4,000-square feet of conference room space.
- The City of Nampa issued a building permit to Lowe's in mid-June. Lowe's, a retail home improvement company, plans to build a \$7.3 million store that will be located at 1400 Caldwell Boulevard in Nampa. The new store will employ about 175 people. Construction is expected to be completed in November and officials plan to open the retail store in January 2004.
- Other recent business openings in the Boise City MSA includes a new 26,000-square-foot Kia dealership at 3020 East Cleveland Boulevard in Caldwell, a new Goodwill thrift store at 1105 Caldwell Boulevard in Nampa (the former Carpet Masters location), and a new Gold's Gym in Nampa at 2111 North Cassia Street in the Edwards Theatre complex.
- In other recent business happenings in the Boise City MSA, WGI was awarded a \$300 million contract in a joint venture with Bechtel National Inc. and Parsons Infrastructure and Technology to design, build, and operate a plant to destroy chemical weapons at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky; the Canyon Medical Health Credit Union started construction on a new office at 404 Holly Street in Nampa; the Book Nook, located at 705 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Nampa, started an expansion project that would quadruple the size of the current business, and is expected to finish by September; Shalom House, a shelter for victims of domestic violence in Caldwell, announced that it would open by September 1; the Car Park, a new parking company in Boise, has recently purchased ten Treasure Valley parking locations op-

erated by AMPCO System Parking in Boise; Boise Bagel Café announced plans to open in early August in the Ram Plaza in east Boise; ProClarity was awarded the 2003 Special Recognition Retail Application Developer Award for “greatest business impact” for the second time; and site preparation has begun on the land that is the new site of the Ahavath Beth Israel synagogue in Boise. The land is located on the Boise Central Bench and will be home to new buildings as well as the synagogue that will be moved in fall 2003 from its current location in downtown Boise.

#### **Gem County**

- In early June, Gem County celebrated its annual Cherry Festival. The five-day festival included a carnival, beauty pageant, a fun run/walk, an art fair, quilt show, parades, softball games, food courts, a pancake feed, entertainment, and, of course, cherry pie eating contests.
- Recent business news in Gem County includes the reopening of Jack-N-Jill Consignments at its new downtown location at 142 West Main Street in Emmett, and the opening of the new 51,000-square-foot Albertsons Grocery Store at the intersection of Highway 16 and South Johns Avenue in Emmett. A fire at the K & R Furniture building in Emmett destroyed the furniture company’s building and several businesses including The Double Dip and a hospice care center. K & R Furniture had recently closed its business.

#### **Payette County**

- Payette County Commissioners changed a zoning designation in New Plymouth that will allow the New Plymouth Assembly of God Church to build a new facility in the area. The new church will be located on U.S. Highway 30, 200 feet east of Adams Road. Construction on the facility is expected to begin this summer.
- A Farmer’s Market will open at the site of the former Maple Tree Fruit Stand on the corner of First Avenue South and U.S. Highway 95 in Payette. The Farmer’s Market will be open every Thursday from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. through October. Funds earned from the Maple Tree Farmer’s Market will be used for Rose Advocates to build a shelter on the site for victims of domestic violence .
- Other recent business happenings in Payette County include the opening of Dolphie’s Pizza House, located at Gayway Junction in Fruitland,

and the announcement that Malheur Federal Credit Union will open a branch at 455 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street in Payette.

#### **Valley County**

- Tamarack announced in mid-June that it had already received reservations for home lots on its property and would start a multi-state tour to promote the resort. The announcement was made at a gathering of realtors, appraisers, and employees of title companies who were in the area to preview the resort. Tamarack will release 62 home sites and 20 townhouse sites for sale this year.
- The J.P. Bartholomew Company & The Squirrel’s Nest opened in May. Both are retail stores located in a shop in the courtyard located at 102 North Third Street in McCall. The J.P. Bartholomew Company sells country store advertising items while The Squirrel’s Nest specializes in cabin décor with Western and outdoors themes. The businesses are open from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday.

#### **Washington County**

- The National Oldtime Fiddlers’ Contest and Festival celebrated its 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary this year in mid-June. More than 350 fiddlers played in various competitions and more than 1,100 volunteers monitored the festival that featured cow pie bingo, karaoke, high-tech virtual fiddling, a carnival, retail booths, entertainment, and a bikers rodeo, in addition to the thousands of fiddlers and spectators that lined the streets of Weiser.

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